

**Senate Bill No. 45—With Executive Veto.**

The Chair here laid before the Senate the following executive message:

Governor's Office,

Austin, Texas, Feb. 26, 1921.

To the Texas Senate.

Gentlemen: A pistol, generally speaking, is bought and carried in order that a human being may be killed with it should the occasion arise to do so.

Every person who puts a pistol in his hip pocket intends to kill a man with it, should he, from his viewpoint, deem it wise to do so.

Man is the masterpiece of the world.

He lives a life sublime and dies a death immortal.

No legislation should be had that will encourage or make easy the taking of human life.

It should be made as difficult as possible for one man to kill another.

For this reason, there has long been a law in this State that prohibits the carrying of a pistol.

It has been, also, for many years, against the law in Texas to sell a pistol.

There has been presented to me, as Governor, for my approval or disapproval, Senate Bill No. 45, which repeals the law prohibiting the sale of pistols.

If this bill is to become a law, then it seems to me that it would be proper to repeal the law prohibiting the carrying of a pistol, and in this way permit every man, woman and child in the State to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The only good thing the proponents of this bill can say in behalf of the pistol is that it should be put on the open market in order that the people may feel free to buy it for the protection of the home.

My answer to this eulogy in behalf of the pistol is that a shotgun loaded with buckshot is a far better protector of the home than a pistol.

To encourage and make easy the

purchase of a pistol is to encourage and make easy violations of the law.

I am unwilling for the State to say, during this high crime wave, that the State now believes that pistols should be freely sold and that the people should in this day be encouraged to purchase them as a means of preserving peace.

Not even in the name of handsome profits on the sale of pistols, do I deem it wise for the State to put the seal of approval on a program of that kind.

This bill I am asked to sign and which passed your body with but two dissenting votes admits in its provisions that a pistol is such a bad thing that it should not be sold to a person under 21 years of age or to a person "under the heat of passion," or displayed in any show window.

For practical purposes, of course, these provisions of the bill are worthless, but the very fact that these inhibitions were placed in the bill is very suggestive of the evils that will probably come from the sale of a pistol.

I would gladly endorse a bill that would make it absolutely impossible for anyone in Texas either to buy or to lease a pistol.

If a thing is productive of sorrow and lawlessness and crime, I am in favor of minimizing it in every legitimate way possible, whether it be the sale of a pistol or the sale of a bottle of whisky.

It is impossible, as I see it, to make the laws too tight, to enforce them too rigidly in regard to matters of this kind.

I am, therefore, returning to you Senate Bill No. 45, with my veto and disapproval.

PAT M. NEFF,  
Governor.

The above message was read to the Senate, and

Senator Darwin moved that the bill be passed, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor.

Question recurred: Shall S. B. No. 45 be passed, notwithstanding the Governor's veto?

The Clerk was directed to call the roll and the bill was passed, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor, by the following vote:

Yeas—22.

Bailey.	Bledsoe.
Baugh.	Carlock.

Clark.	McMillin.
Darwin	McNealus.
Davidson.	Murphy.
Dudley.	Richards.
Fairchild.	Rogers.
Floyd.	Watts.
Hall.	Williams.
Hertzberg.	Witt.
Lewis.	Wood.

Nays—4.

Buchanan.	Page.
Cousins.	Woods.

Absent.

Dorough.	Russell.
Harp.	Suiter.
Parr.	